#### Johnson, Jere

From: Jere Johnson [Johnson.Jere@epamail.epa.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 3:23 PM

To: Johnson, Jere

**Subject:** Fw: Comstock Mining

Attachments: 8. 2011 June Final Narrative.pdf; 5. CMI\_Holes\_DrillerAfter\_4-27-2012 (2).pdf; 6. 2011 May

11 Cease & Desist.pdf; 7. 2011 June 6 TNEV2011453.pdf

Jere Johnson Remedial Project Manager (SFD 8-2) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105 415.972.3094 (direct) 415.947.3526 (fax)

If I don't respond to a message, I may be out of the office.

Security settings do not permit my "Out of Office" automatic e-mail response to be shared outside of EPA.

----- Forwarded by Jere Johnson/R9/USEPA/US on 03/26/2014 03:21 PM -----

From: "Cindi Byrns" < byrns@comstockmining.com>

To: Kathi Moore/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Eric Esler/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Jere Johnson/R9/USEPA/US@EPA,

Date: 02/24/2012 12:06 PM Subject: Comstock Mining

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> of 5.

#### Cindi Byrns

Director of Environmental and Regulatory Management

702-927-3795(See attached file: 5. CMI\_Holes\_DrillerAfter\_4-27-2012 (2).pdf)(See attached file: 6. 2011 May 11 Cease & Desist.pdf)(See attached file: 7. 2011 June 6 TNEV2011453.pdf)(See attached file: 8. 2011 June Final Narrative.pdf)



Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Brian Sandava Galletray Les M. Dreadoff, RE, Directo

College Criphs, Ph. L. Administrator

May 11, 2011

Donnis Anderson Comstock Mining P.O. Box 1118 Virginia City, NV 89440

Cease and Desist From Introducing Pollutants into Waterway

Dear Mr. Anderson.

This letter is to inform Comstock Mining (Comstock) that it is in violation of Nevada Revised Statute 445A.465, specifically parts c and d. Therefore, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) requires that Comstock immediately cease and desist from introducing pollutants into, and remove the dirt and rock which it has placed in, the waterway running parallel to Nevada 342 north of Silver City, Nevada. In order to remove the material legally. Comstock must obtain a working in waterways permit from NDEP prior to commencing activities in the waterway. The permit application is located at ndep.av.gov/bwpc/forms.htm. Please contact Jeryl Cardner at (775) 687-9423 with questions regarding the working in waterways permit.

NDEP requires that all work to remove the dirt and rock from the waterway be completed by June 24, 2011. Comstock shall demonstrate compliance has been achieved by submitting a narrative of the work which was done and pictures of the area which clearly demonstrate the waterway has been restored.

If Comstock wishes to construct a permanent crossing of the waterway, other permits are required, some from federal agencies. Given the elongated timeframe which such additional activity may incur, NDEP requires the dirt and rock to be removed and the waterway restored to functionality before any such effort is undertaken.

Failure to immediately cease and desist or to restore the site by the date given may result in Comstock Mining being subject to an Enforcement Action, which is associated with penalties of up to \$25,000 per day, per violation.

Please contact the undersigned at (775) 687-9502 with questions regarding this matter.

Jeffrey Erwin Compliance Officer

Water Pollution Control

cc: Valerie King, Enforcement Supervisor, BWPC. Jeryl Gardner, P.F., Permits, BWPC Todd Process, Reclamation, BMRR



701 S. Stewart, Street, Suits, 4001 a Carson City, Nevada 89701 a pt 775,687,4670 a ft 775,687,5856 a ndeptingo

Limber on recycled bone.



# STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Brian Sandovat, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

College Cripps, Ph.D., Administrator

June 6, 2011

Mr. Kenneth L. Dorr, P.E. 18115 Lake Vista Rd. Washoe Valley, NV 89704

Subject:

Temporary Permit TNEV2011453 -Comstock Mining -SR342 access road for exploratory drilling

Dear Mr. Dorr:

The permit for temporary working in waterways is enclosed. The permit will be in effect from June 7, 2011 through December 6, 2011. The permit authorizes the temporary work in waters of the State as described in the application and information provided to the Division. The final project narrative with photo documentation is due January 28, 2012 or by the 28<sup>th</sup> day of the month following project conclusion, whichever comes first.

Please give me a call at 775-687-9423 if you have any questions.

Sincerely.

eryl R. Gardner, P.E.

Bureau of Water Pollution Control

Enclosures: Temporary Permit TNEV2011453

ec:

Compliance Coordinator, BWPC (hand-delivered)

Jean Stone, BWQP (electronic) Todd Process, BMRR (electronic)

Kristine Hansen, USACE -Reno Field Office, 300 Booth St., Rm 3060, Reno, NV 89509 (w/permit)

### NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

# TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION TO WORK IN WATERWAYS

In compliance with the provisions Chapter 445A of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), the Permittee,

#### Comstock Mining P.O. Box 1118 Virginia City, NV 89440

is authorized to operate heavy equipment (rolling stock) and to work in waters of the State for an mining exploration project involving access road construction and riprap waterway crossing installations, in accordance with the plans and information submitted to NDEP, for the project adjacent to and west of SR342, in and near Gold Canyon Creek, an ephemeral drainage, located between Gold Hill and Silver City, approximately at:

Storey County
NE ¼ Section 8, T16N R21E MDB&M
Latitude: 39° 16′ 15″ N Longitude: 119° 38′ 55″W

in receiving waters named:

#### Gold Canyon Creek, an ephemeral drainage

in accordance with discharge limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in Parts I, II, and III hereof.

This permit shall become effective on June 7, 2011.

This permit shall expire at midnight December 6, 2011.

Signed this 6th day of June, 2011.

Jervl R. Gardner, P.E.

Bureau of Water Poliution Control

#### PART I

#### I.A. <u>DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS, MONITORING, AND CONDITIONS</u>

Introduction: The Permittee, Comstock Mining, is conducting exploration and drilling for a proposed gold mining operation to be located west of State Route 342, between Gold Hill and Silver City, in Storey County, Nevada. Exploration drilling is expected to continue intermittently for the next 2-3 years; the work will require construction of temporary access roads that will cross an ephemeral drainage, Gold Canyon Creek. Construction of the road will require re-grading of the drainage crossing, and placement of riprap in the channel to allow crossing of vehicles without culverts or bridges. Riprap will also be placed upstream and downstream of the stream crossing and these will tie in to the stream crossing riprap section. The project also requires removal of native rocks and debris that have slid into the channel approximately 400 feet south of the stream crossing area. The project will commence in June, 2011. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used to minimize erosion and sedimentation of the stream crossing, and upstream and downstream project activities during and after the installation of the riprap.

- I.A.1. Discharge Limitations: During the period beginning on the effective date of this permit and lasting until the permit expires, the Permittee is authorized to work in waters of the State in the subject areas of the waterbodies. BMPs shall be adhered to for all work components and possible flow conditions. Water quality management shall be such that the water quality in the ephemeral drainage shall not be degraded below natural conditions.
- I.A.2. Monitoring Requirements: Project monitoring shall be conducted by means of a concise narrative report describing the project and a series of photos documenting the project activities as presented to NDEP, including the implementation of BMPs. The "before, during and after" photos, shall document all construction and waterbody crossing-related activities, and BMP installations and removals, as well as site restoration activities. The photos shall be taken from established photo points. The photos, along with the narrative report of the project activities, shall be submitted to the Division by the 28<sup>th</sup> day of the month following expiration of the permit or conclusion of the project whichever is less.
- LA.3. Specific Conditions: For any heavy equipment used in the project areas in and near Gold Canyon Creek in Storey County, Nevada, the operations shall be conducted in accordance with the plans and information submitted to the Division, and the following terms and conditions:
  - a. Any heavy equipment (backhoe, etc.), to be used in and near the ephemeral drainage must be thoroughly steam cleaned before being introduced into or work is conducted in the drainage and adjacent areas to prevent potential contamination. All leaks shall be repaired immediately. All equipment fueling and storage of fuels shall be conducted off-site and at least 100 feet away from the Gold Canyon Creek.

- b. Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be applied and precautions shall be taken to prevent and control releases of: debris, sediment, any transport of sediments, and to prevent and control turbidity in the water bodies during the construction activities.
- c. Specific temporary BMPs shall include straw bales, riprap and other methods. Permanent BMPs shall be installed after the access road is re-graded, and riprap installed, and after any temporary diversions are removed.
- d. No process water or dust control water shall be discharged in or near the drainages. Only necessary amounts of dust control water shall be applied.
- e. A record shall be kept of each day's use of heavy equipment in the ephemeral drainage, and adjacent areas.
- f. Any diversion structure shall be engineered to effectively divert water around the project, minimizing seep water. When possible, activities shall be scheduled during periods of low flow.
- g. Every precaution must be taken in site stabilization of the area by the replacement of vegetation as applicable and practicable. The entire project area shall be restored as closely as possible to the original conditions.
- Stockpiles and debris shall not be stored near the drainage and adjacent areas.
- The Permittee, Comstock Mining, bears the sole responsibility to ensure that the requirements of this temporary permit are fully satisfied.
- I.A.4. Schedule of Compliance: The Permittee shall achieve compliance with the permit limitations upon issuance of the permit.
- I.A.5. Documentation: Documentation, in lieu of sampling, must be submitted as specified in Part I.A.2.
- I.A.6. Final Report: The final narrative report with photos describing and documenting the results of the project's activities shall be submitted after the end of the permit. The report shall contain the original signature of the Engineer-In-Charge of the project. The final report shall be received, at the address given below, by the 28<sup>th</sup> day of the month following project completion or permit expiration, whichever comes first.

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Pollution Control ATTN: Compliance Coordinator 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001 Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249

I.A.7. Water Quality Standards: There shall be no discharge of substances that would cause a violation of water quality standards of the State of Nevada.

- LA.8. Sediment Discharge: There shall be no discharge of sediment in other than trace amounts.
- LA.9. Odors: There shall be no objectionable odors generated in the conduct of this project.
- LA.10. Authorized Project Activities: There shall be no water management or rolling stock activities undertaken except those as authorized by this permit.
- I.A.11. Plan Approval: The project elements/components/activities shall be constructed and or conducted in accordance with the plans submitted to and approved by the Division. The plans must be approved by the Division prior to the start of construction. All changes to the approved plans must be approved by the Division.
- LA.12. Presumption of Possession and Compliance: Copies of this permit, any subsequent modifications shall be maintained at the permitted project site at all times.

#### I.B. MONITORING AND REPORTING

#### I.B.1. Monitoring

- a. Representative Samples: Samples and measurements taken as required herein shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge.
- b. Test Procedures: Analyses shall be conducted by a "certified laboratory" using an "approved method of testing", as defined in NAC 445A.0564 and NAC 445A.0562, respectively.
- c. Recording the Results: For each measurement or sample taken pursuant to the requirements of this permit, the Permittee shall record the following information:
  - The exact place, date, and time of sampling;
  - ii. The dates the analyses were performed;
  - iii. The person(s) who performed the analyses;
  - iv. The analytical techniques or methods used; and
  - v. The results of all required analyses, including reporting limits.
- d. Additional Monitoring by Permittee: If the Permittee monitors any pollutant at the location(s) designated herein more frequently than required by this permit, using approved analytical methods as specified above, the results of such monitoring shall be included in any calculation and/or reported value required by this permit. Such increased frequency shall also be indicated in required reports.
- Records Retention: All records and information resulting from monitoring activities; the permit application; reporting required by this permit, including

all records of analyses performed, calibration and maintenance of instrumentation, and recordings from continuous monitoring instrumentation shall be retained for a minimum of five (5) years or longer if required by the Administrator.

- f. Reporting Limits: Unless otherwise allowed by the Division, the approved method of testing selected for analyses shall have a reporting limit which is:
  - i. Half or less of the discharge limit; or, if there is no discharge limit,
  - ii. Half of less of the applicable water quality criteria; or, if there is no limit or criteria.
  - iii. The lowest reasonably obtainable limit using an approved test method.
- g. Modification of Monitoring Frequency and Sample Type: After considering monitoring data, discharge flow, discharge frequency, and receiving water conditions, the Division and/or Administrator may, for just cause, modify the monitoring frequency and/or sample type by issuing an order to the Permittee.

#### h. Definitions

- i. <u>30-day average discharge</u>: means the total discharge during a month divided by the number of samples in the period that the facility was discharging. Where less than daily sampling is required by this permit, the 30-day average discharge shall be determined by the summation of all the measured discharges divided by the number of samples during the period when the measurements were made.
- Daily maximum: is the highest measurement obtained during the monitoring period.
- iii. <u>30-day average concentration</u>: means the arithmetic mean of measurements made during a month.
- iv. <u>"Discrete" sample:</u> means any individual sample collected in less than 15 minutes.
- v. <u>Composite sample:</u> flow rate composite means the arithmetic mean of no fewer than six individual measurements taken at equal time intervals for 24 hours, or for the duration of discharge, whichever is shorter. For other than flow rate a composite sample means a combination of no fewer than six individual flow-weighted samples obtained at equal time intervals for 24 hours, or for the duration of the discharge, whichever is shorter. Flow-weighted sample means that the volume of each individual sample shall be proportional to the discharge flow rate at the time of sampling.
- I.B.2. Reporting: Analytical data and monitoring results shall be summarized and/or tabulated for presentation in standardized Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs). Laboratory reports for quantitative analyses conducted by State of Nevada certified laboratories must accompany DMR submittals.

DMRs shall be received by the 28th day of the month following the effective date of

the permit and the 28<sup>th</sup> day of each month for the duration of the permit. If no discharge occurs during the reporting period, summarize the project status and report "no discharge" on the submitted DMR.

DMRs must be signed by the authorized representative that is responsible for the facility. The first DMR submitted under this permit must include the written designation of the authorized representative elected to sign DMRs. The designated representative responsible for facility operations must sign each subsequent DMR submitted to the Division. If the authorized representative changes, a new designation letter must be submitted.

- a. Monthly Reporting: Monthly reporting is not required under this permit. A
   Final Report is required for this permit.
- b. Other Information: Where the Permittee becomes aware of failure to submit any relevant facts in a permit application or has submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Division, the Permittee shall promptly submit such facts or information.
- c. Planned Changes: The Permittee shall give notice to the Division as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility. Notice is required only when the alteration or addition to a permitted facility:
  - Could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged; or
  - ii. Results in a significant change to the Permittee's sludge management practice or disposal sites.
- d. Anticipated Noncompliance: The Permittee shall give advance notice to the Administrator of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.
- e. Submittal: An original signed copy of these reports, and all other reports required herein, shall be submitted to the Division at the following address:

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Pollution Control ATTN: Compliance Coordinator 901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 4001 Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249

### I.B.3. Signatory Certification Required on Application and Reporting Forms:

a. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Administrator shall be signed and certified by making the following certification:

"I certify under penalty of law, that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

- b. All applications, reports, or other information submitted to the Division shall be signed by one of the following:
  - A principal executive officer of the corporation (of at least the level of vice president) or his authorized representative who is responsible for the overall operation of the facility from which the discharge described in the application or reporting form originates;
  - ii. A general partner of the partnership;
  - iii. The proprietor of the sole proprietorship; or
  - iv. A principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or other authorized employee of the municipal, state, or other public facility.
- c. Changes to Authorization: If an authorization under Part LB.3. is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the facility, a new authorization satisfying the requirements of Part LB.3. must be submitted to the Administrator prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications to be signed by an authorized representative.

#### PART II

#### II.A. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

II.A.1. Change in Discharge: All discharges authorized herein shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this permit. The discharge of any pollutant identified in this permit more frequently than, or at a level in excess of, that authorized shall constitute a violation of the permit.

Any anticipated facility expansions that will result in new, different, or increased discharges of pollutants must be reported by submission of a new application or, if such changes will not violate the effluent limitations specified in this permit, by notice to the permit issuing authority of such changes. Any changes to the permitted facility must comply with NAC 445A.283 to 445A.285. Pursuant to NAC 445A.263, the permit may be modified to specify and limit any pollutants not previously limited.

II.A.2. Facilities Operation-Proper Operation and Maintenance: The Permittee shall, at all times, maintain in good working order and operate as efficiently as possible all control facilities, collection systems, or pump stations installed or used by the

Permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit.

II.A.3. Adverse Impact-Duty to Mitigate: The Permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize releases to the environment resulting from noncompliance with any effluent limitations specified in this permit, including such accelerated or additional monitoring as necessary to determine the nature and impact of the noncomplying discharge. The Permittee shall carry out such measures, as reasonable, to prevent significant adverse impacts on human health or the environment.

#### II.A.4. Noncompliance, Unauthorized Discharge, Bypassing, and Upset:

- a. Any diversion, bypass, spill, overflow, or discharge of wastewater from evaporation or conveyance facilities under the control of the Permittee is prohibited except as authorized by this permit. In the event the Permittee has knowledge that a diversion, bypass, spill, overflow, or discharge not authorized by this permit is probable, the Permittee shall immediately notify the Division by calling the Spill hotline at 775-687-9485 or 1-888-331-6337.
- b. The Permittee shall notify the Administrator within twenty-four (24) hours of any diversion, bypass, spill, upset, overflow, or release of discharge other than that which is authorized by the permit, by calling the NDEP Spill Hotline at 1-888-331-6337. The following shall be included as information which must be reported within 24 hours:
  - i. Any unanticipated bypass which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit;
  - ii. Any upset which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit; and
  - Any violation of a limitation for any toxic pollutant or any pollutant identified as the method to control a toxic pollutant.
- c. A written report shall be submitted to the Division within five (5) days of diversion, bypass, spill, overflow, upset, or discharge detailing the entire incident including:
  - i. Time and date of discharge;
  - ii. Exact location and estimated amount of discharge;
  - iii. Flow path and any bodies of water which the discharge contacts;
  - iv. The specific cause of the discharge; and
  - The preventive and/or corrective actions taken.
- d. The Permittee shall report all instances of noncompliance not reported under Part II.A.4.c. at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in Part II.A.4.c.
- A "bypass" means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a facility.
  - i. Bypass not exceeding limitations: The Permittee may allow any

- bypass to occur which does not cause effluent limitations to be exceeded, but only if it also is for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation. These bypasses are not subject to the provisions of Parts II.A.4.a. and II.A.4.b.
- ii. <u>Anticipated bypass:</u> If the Permittee knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit prior notice, if possible, at least ten (10) days before the date of bypass.
- f. Bypass is prohibited, and the Division may take enforcement action against a Permittee for bypass, unless:
  - The bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
  - ii. There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary evaporation facilities or maintenance during normal periods of equipment down time. This condition is not satisfied if adequate back-up equipment should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass which occurs during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventative maintenance; and
  - iii. The Permittee submitted notices as required under Part II.A.4.e.
- g. The Division may approve an anticipated bypass, after considering its adverse effects, if the Division determines that it will meet the three conditions listed in Part II.A.4.f.
- h. An "upset" means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology-based permit effluent limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the Permittee. An upset does not include noncompliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.
- i. A Permittee who wishes to establish the affirmative defense of upset shall demonstrate, through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, or other relevant evidence that:
  - An upset occurred and the Permittee can identify the cause(s) of the upset;
  - ii. The permitted facility was at the time being properly operated;
  - iii. The Permittee submitted notice of the upset as required under Part II.A.4.e.; and
  - iv. The Permittee complied with any remedial measures required under II.A.3.
- j. An upset constitutes an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with such technology-based permit effluent limitations if the requirements of Part II.A.4.i. are met.

- k. In selecting the appropriate enforcement option, the Administrator shall consider whether or not the noncompliance was the result of an upset. The burden of proof is on the Permittee to establish that an upset occurred.
- II.A.5. Removed Substances: Solids, sludges, filter backwash, or other pollutants removed in the course of control of process wastewaters shall be disposed of in a manner such as to prevent any pollution from such materials from entering any navigable waters.
- II.A.6. Safeguards to Electric Power Failure: In order to maintain compliance with the effluent limitations and prohibitions of this permit the Permittee shall either:
  - a. Provide, at the time of discharge, an alternative power source sufficient to operate the wastewater control facilities; or
  - Halt or reduce all discharges upon the reduction, loss, or failure of the primary source of power to the wastewater control facilities.

#### II.B. RESPONSIBILITIES

- II.B.1. **Right of Entry and Inspection:** The Permittee shall allow the Administrator and/or his authorized representatives, upon the presentation of credentials, to:
  - Enter, at reasonable times, upon the Permittee's premises where an effluent source is located or in which any records are required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit;
  - Have access to and copy any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit;
  - Inspect, at reasonable times, any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations required in this permit; and
  - d. Perform any necessary sampling or monitoring to determine compliance with this permit at any location for any parameter.
- II.B.2. Transfer of Ownership or Control: In the event of any change in control or ownership of facilities from which the authorized discharge emanates, the Permittee shall notify the succeeding owner or controller of the existence of this permit, by letter, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Administrator. The Administrator may require modification or revocation and re-issuance of the permit to change the name of the Permittee and incorporate such other requirements as may be necessary. The Division shall approve all transfer of permits.
- II.B.3. Availability of Reports: Except for data determined to be confidential under NRS 445A.665, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Administrator. As required by the Act, effluent data shall not be considered confidential. Knowingly making any false statement on any such report may result in the imposition of criminal penalties as

provided for in NRS 445A.710.

- II.B.4. Furnishing False Information and Tampering with Monitoring Devices: Any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained by the provisions of NRS 445A.300 to 445A.730, inclusive, or by any permit, rule, regulation, or order issued pursuant thereto or who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under the provisions of NRS 445A.300 to 445A.730, inclusive or by any permit, rule, regulation, or order issued pursuant thereto is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment. This penalty is in addition to any other penalties, civil or criminal, provided pursuant to NRS 445A.300 to 445A.730, inclusive.
- II.B.5. Penalty for Violation of Permit Conditions: NRS 445A.675 provides that any person who violates a permit condition is subject to administrative and judicial sanctions as outlined in NRS 445A.690 through 445A.705.
- II.B.6. Permit Modification, Suspension, or Revocation: After notice and opportunity for a hearing, this permit may be modified, suspended, or revoked in whole or in part during its term for cause including, but not limited to, the following:
  - Violation of any terms or conditions of this permit;
  - Obtaining this permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts;
  - A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge;
- II.B.7. Toxic Pollutants: Notwithstanding Part II.B.6., if a toxic effluent standard or prohibition (including any schedule of compliance specified in such effluent standard or prohibition) is established under Section 307(a) of the Act for a toxic pollutant which is present in the discharge and such standard or prohibition is more stringent than any limitation for such pollutant in this permit, this permit shall be revised or modified in accordance with the toxic effluent standard or prohibition and the Permittee so notified.
- II.B.8. Liability: Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the Permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to any applicable Federal, State, or local laws, regulations, or ordinances.
- ILB.9. **Property Rights:** The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights, in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, rights, or rights of access or easement; nor does it authorize any injury to private property, any invasion of personal rights, or any infringement of Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.
- II.B.10. Severability: The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this

permit or the application of any provisions of this permit to any circumstance is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances and the remainder of this permit shall not be affected thereby.

- II.B.11. Need to Halt or Reduce Activity Not a Defense: The need to halt or reduce permitted activities in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit shall not be a defense for a Permittee in an enforcement action.
- II.B.12. Duty to Provide Information: The Permittee shall furnish to the Administrator, within a reasonable time, any relevant information which the Administrator may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit, or to determine compliance with this permit. The Permittee shall also furnish to the Administrator, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit.

#### PART III

#### III.A. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

#### III.A.1. Signatures, certification required on application and reporting forms

- a. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Administrator shall be signed and certified by making the following certification: "I certify under penalty of law, that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."
- b. All applications, reports or other information submitted to the Administrator shall be signed by one of the following:
  - A principal executive officer of the corporation (of at least the level of vice president) or his authorized representative who is responsible for the overall operation of the facility from which the discharge described in the application or reporting form originates; or

A general partner of the partnership; or

iii. The proprietor of the sole proprietorship; or

- A principal executive officer, ranking elected official or other authorized employee of the municipal, state or other public facility.
- c. Duly Authorized Representative: All Discharge Monitoring Reports and any other information required by this permit or requested by the Administrator shall be signed by a person described in paragraph (b) of this section, or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:

- The authorization is made in writing by a person described in paragraph (b) of this section
- ii The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for environmental matters for the company, and
- iii. The authorization is submitted to the Division.
- d. Changes to Authorization: If an authorization under paragraph c. of this section is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the facility, a new authorization satisfying the requirements of paragraph b. of this section must be submitted to the Administrator prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications to be signed by an authorized representative.
- III.A.2. Holding Pond Conditions: If any wastewater from the Permittee's facility is placed in ponds, such ponds shall be located and constructed so as to:
  - a. contain with no discharge the 25-year 24-hour storm at said location;
  - b. withstand with no discharge the 100-year flood of said location; and,
  - c. prevent escape of wastewater by leakage other than as authorized by this permit.
- III.A.3. Flow Rate Notification: The Permittee shall notify the Administrator, by letter, not later than ninety (90) days after the 30-day average daily influent flow rate first equals or exceeds 85% of the design treatment capacity of the Permittee's facility given in Part I.A above. The letter shall include:
  - a. The 30-day average daily influent flow rate;
  - The maximum 24-hour flow rate during the 30-day period reported above, and the date the maximum flow occurred;
  - The Permittee's estimate of when the 30-day average influent flow rate will
    equal or exceed the design treatment capacity of the Permittee's facility;
  - d. A status report on the treatment works which will outline but not be limited to past performance, remaining capacity of the limiting treatment and disposal units or sites, past operational problems and improvements instituted, modifications to the treatment works which are needed to attain the permitted flow rate due to changing site specific conditions or design criteria; and
  - e. The Permittee's schedule of compliance to provide additional treatment capacity before the 30-day average daily influent flow rate equals the present design treatment capacity of the Permittee's facility.

#### **Final Project Narrative Report**

For

SR 342 Access Road Drainage Crossing and Drainage Channel Restoration Temporary Permit TNEV2011453



Prepared for:

Comstock Mining Inc. 1200 American Flat Road Virginia City, Nevada 89440 (775) 883-1518

Prepared by:



3476 Executive Pointe Way Carson City, Nevada 89702

June, 2011



June 20, 2011

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Pollution Control 901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 4001 Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249 Contended and Co

Subject: FINAL PROJECT NARRATIVE - NDEP TEMPORARY PERMIT TNEV2011453

ATTN: Compliance Coordinator

The purpose of this report is to document the project activities as presented to NDEP Attached are photos documenting "before, during, and after" implementation of BMP's and a field report provided by Geocon Consultants. This project is to provide temporary access roads required for exploration drilling to support a proposed mining project. Exploration drilling is expected to continue intermittently for two to three years. The equipment for this work includes mobile drilling rigs, light trucks and support personal with their related equipment. The site is situated in a mountainous region along a hillside adjacent to State Route 342 in Storey County, Nevada. Access to the site involves leaving SR 342 and crossing the adjacent intermittent stream bed. The access roads are natural surface access roads and at the existing crossing of the stream bed rip rap cl 150 was used. The proposed crossing area was graded to match the original flow condition. The crossing will allow the flow to continue over the access road without erosion occurring. The existing drainage channel approximately 400 feet south of the crossing area was restored using rip rap cl 150 and straw waddles.

"I certify under penalty of law, that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

Manhard Consulting Ltd.

Kenneth L. Dorr, P.E. Senior Project Manger



### GEOTECHNICAL . ENVIRONMENTAL . MATERIAL:



P.N. R8758-06-02 June 20, 2011

Mr. Ken Dorr Manhard Consulting, Ltd. 3476 Executive point Way, #12. Carson City, NV 89706

Subject:

PROJECT REPORT - NDEP TEMPORAY PERMIT TNEV2011453

COMSTOCK MINING- SR 342 ACCESS ROAD DRAINAGE CROSSING

AND DRAINAGE CHANNEL RESTORATION

STOREY COUNTY, NEVADA

Mr. Dore:

As requested, Geocon Consultants, Inc. has provided construction observation services in association with the construction of the drainage crossing and drainage channel restoration at the subject Comstock Mining site. Representatives of Geocon were on site from June 14, 2011 through June 17, 2011 to observe construction and restoration activities conducted by at the site and to provide photo documentation of the project in accordance with the above referenced NDEP permit. The project included the construction of a rip-rap lined drainage crossing used for access to mining property east of drainage and drainage channel slope restoration downstream of the crossing along State Route 342.

Based on our site observations, and to the best of our knowledge, information, and belief, the improvements reported herein are in general conformance with the project plans and permit requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service. Should you have any questions regarding the contents of this report, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

GEOCON CONSULTANTS, INC.

Gary C. Luce, P.E. Senior Engineer

Enclosures:

Site Construction Photographs
Daily Field Reports

\_\_\_\_\_

Distribution:

(2) Addressee

(I) File



Pre-construction Photograph, June 9, 2011 Drainage crossing – south view.



### PRE-CONSTRUCTION PHOTOGRAPH

COMSTOCK MINING-SR342 ACCESS ROAD/DRAINAGE CHANNEL STORY COUNTY, NEVADA

PROJECT NO. R8758-06-02



Photograph #1, June 13, 2011
Drainage crossing - South view, excavating for rip-rap.



Photograph #2, June 13, 2011
Drainage crossing - South view, placing Mirafi 140N fabric.



### SITE PHOTOGRAPHS 1 and 2

COMSTOCK MINING-SR342 ACCESS ROAD/DRAINAGE CHANNEL STORY COUNTY, NEVADA

PROJECT NO. R8758-06-02



Photograph #3, June 13, 2011
Drainage crossing - South view, Cl 150 rip-rap complete.



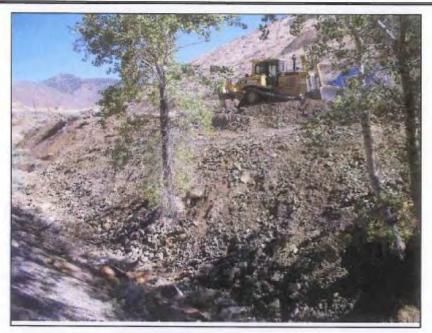
Photograph #4, June 14, 2011
Drainage crossing - South view, gravel placed in travel lane over rip-rap.



### SITE PHOTOGRAPHS 3 and 4

COMSTOCK MINING-SR342 ACCESS ROAD/DRAINAGE CHANNEL STORY COUNTY, NEVADA

PROJECT NO. R8758-06-02



Photograph #5, June 15, 2011
Drainage channel restoration - northeast view, prior to removing material.



Photograph #6, June 15, 2011
Drainage channel restoration - east view, prior to removing material.

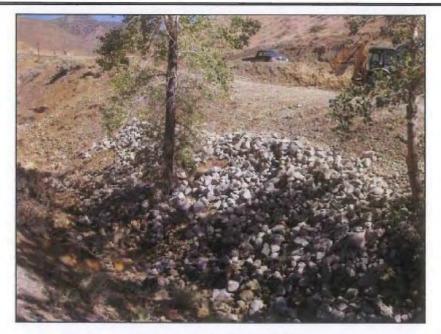


**JMK** 

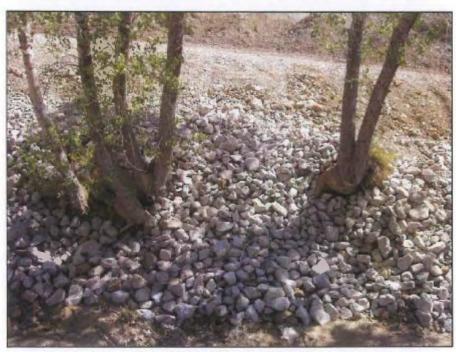
### SITE PHOTOGRAPHS 5 and 6

COMSTOCK MINING-SR342 ACCESS ROAD/DRAINAGE CHANNEL STORY COUNTY, NEVADA

PROJECT NO. R8758-06-02



Photograph #7, June 15, 2011
Drainage channel restoration - northeast view, placing rip-rap.



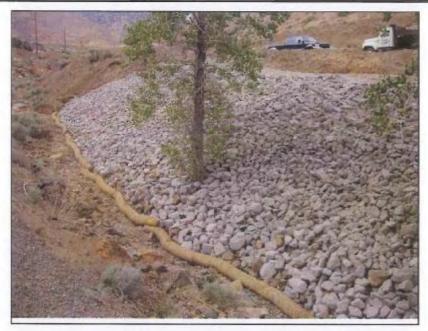
Photograph #8, June 16, 2011
Drainage channel restoration - east view, placing rip-rap.



### SITE PHOTOGRAPHS 7 and 8

COMSTOCK MINING-SR342 ACCESS ROAD/DRAINAGE CHANNEL STORY COUNTY, NEVADA

PROJECT NO. R8758-06-02



Photograph #9, June 16, 2011
Drainage channel restoration - northeast view, completed slope restoration.



Photograph #10, June 16, 2011
Drainage channel restoration - east view, completed slope restoration.



**JMK** 

### SITE PHOTOGRAPHS 9 and 10

COMSTOCK MINING-SR342 ACCESS ROAD/DRAINAGE CHANNEL STORY COUNTY, NEVADA

PROJECT NO. R8758-06-02



Photograph #11, June 14, 2011
Drainage crossing – south view, Mirafi 140N fabric coverage.



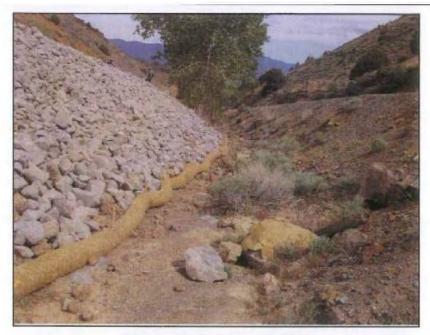
Photograph #12, June 16, 2011 Drainage crossing - north view, rip-rap crossing.



### SITE PHOTOGRAPHS 11 and 12

COMSTOCK MINING-SR342 ACCESS ROAD/DRAINAGE CHANNEL STORY COUNTY, NEVADA

PROJECT NO. R8758-06-02



Photograph #13, June 14, 2011
Drainage channel restoration – south view, completed slope.



Photograph #14, June 16, 2011 Drainage crossing - south view, completed slope.



JMK.

### SITE PHOTOGRAPHS 13 and 14

COMSTOCK MINING-SR342 ACCESS ROAD/DRAINAGE CHANNEL STORY COUNTY, NEVADA

PROJECT NO. R8758-06-02



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NOTICE: The professional engineer is represented on site solely to observe operations of the contractor identified, form opinions about the adequacy of those operations, and report those opinions to the client. The presence and activities of the engineer's field representative do not relieve the contractors obligation to meet contractual requirements. The contractor retains sole responsibility for the site safety and the methods and sequences of construction.

"Preliminary Results Pending Engineers Review.



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"Preliminary Results Pending Engineers Review.



DAY OF WEEK F-U

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